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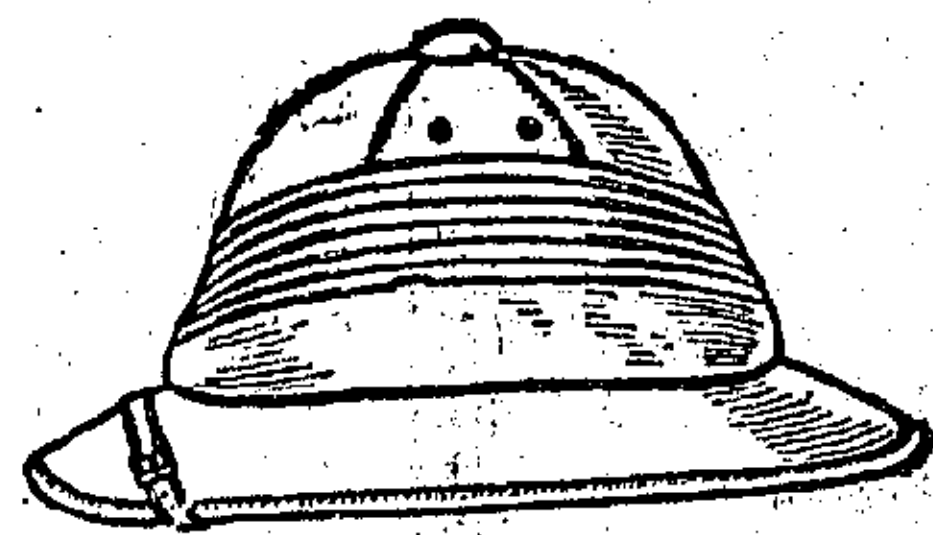
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WESTERN CHINA.

LECTURE BY H.M. CONNELL AT NANKING.

At a recent meeting of the Central Asian Society in London, a paper was read by Mr. E. C. Wilton, C.M.G., H.M. Consul at Nanking, on "The Boundary Provinces of Western China." The chair was taken by Sir Francis Younghusband. In the course of a very interesting paper, dealing with the three provinces of Kansu, Szechuan, and Yunnan, Mr. Wilton said:—Kansu is the northern of the three boundary provinces and corresponds geographically to the ancient Tangut Kingdom which so long successfully defied the Chinese and was finally subjugated by the Mongols in the thirteenth century. The province has been subject to civil war, and the devastation of two Mohammedan rebellions; and the general unrest has effectively arrested any development of its natural resources during the last century, although portions of the north-west and north-east are now exhibiting some signs of agricultural revival. A Belgian syndicate was granted a railway concession five years ago for a line from Lanchow eastwards, right across China to the sea coast, but no portion of this line has as yet been constructed in Kansu; and the province can boast of no railway communications, the usual means of transport being by carts and pack animals. Since its inauguration as a province in 1750, Kansu, in spite of civil dissensions, has ceased to be a backwater for China and her enemies, and served as an advanced base and line of communication for Chinese armies in Tibet and Chinese Turkestan during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. To the south of Kansu lies Szechuan, the land of the Four Rivers. It is the largest of all the Chinese provinces, with an area of 220,000 square miles and a population of fifty millions. Thanks to its temperate climate, fertile soil, and the industry of its inhabitants, it produces everything, except cotton, necessary for its dense population, together with a large surplus available for export. The most intensely cultivated and densely populated part is that known as the Red Basin, which occupies approximately the centre, and is surrounded by mountains and sparsely inhabited country to the east, north, and west, and is bounded by the Yangtze to the south. A marked feature of the agricultural districts is the absence of villages. The farmer and the labourer live in farmhouses on the land, and the tendency is to the separation rather than to the congregation of dwellings; as a result, the whole country side is dotted over with cottages at a short distance from one another. Another characteristic of the purely farm life, as distinguished from village life, is the absence of the market (Ch'ang). These are generally long streets, the main roads consisting of shops owned by the farmers, and let to traders on the market days, which fall on every third, fourth, or fifth day, as the case may be. These gatherings are the centres of news, gossip, official announcements, festivals, theatricals, and public and even family meetings, and are very lively scenes on the days of meeting. In addition to its other natural resources, Szechuan possesses abundant salt wells scattered widely throughout the province. These wells have all been laboriously bored by hand, some reaching to a depth of over 3,000 feet. The brine is brought to the surface in bamboo buckets attached to bamboo ropes wound round a drum by harnessed buffaloes. The natural gas, of which there is a large supply in the principal salt centre, is conducted in bamboo pipes and utilised for the evaporation of the brine. From these political and ethnographical points of view the country to the west of the Red Basin is by far the most interesting, as it stretches towards and beyond the wild regions generally known as the Tibetan marches, inhabited by Tibetans and people of Tibetan stock. As regards the inhabitants of the Red Basin, these are all Chinese, and the Province may be said to have been recently colonised. In the seventeenth century it was practically depopulated by the notorious Chang Hsien-Chung, a bloodthirsty madman who would to power through streams of blood and removed every obstacle by the simple expedient of wholesale massacre—men, women, and children, he spared none. He was finally killed by the Manchus, who invaded and conquered the province towards the latter end of the seventeenth century. There appears no reason to question the popular belief that he recorded his murders on a stone tablet known as the tablet of the "7 sins," each "sin" (kill) representing a million.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SECHUAN.

After the Manchu conquest the province was colonised by Chinese from other provinces, and the revival of this prosperous and wealthy province has been accomplished within the space of the last century and a half. Not only has it contributed largely in the past to the revenues of the Central Government, but it has also given considerable financial assistance to the exchequer of its poorer neighbours, such as Kweichow and Yunnan, and has also provided the funds required for the former upkeep of the expensive establishments maintained in Tibet for the Chinese Amban and the so-called Chinese garrisons in that country. Its wealth and strategic importance explain in a great measure the uneasiness and suspicion which China has manifested towards India, and the policy of the former in maintaining the "buffer zone" against an advance from India in this direction—an advance it need hardly be said, which was wholly imaginary, but nevertheless, a bogey consistently held up before the eyes of the Court at Peking by the Provincial Government of Szechuan. The extraordinary prosperity of Szechuan is due not only to the fertility of its soil and the industry of its inhabitants, but also

very largely to its excellent water communications, and to the variety of type of boatman, is never deterred by meagre pay, dangers of work and exposure to elements from braving the many dangers of the numerous rapids in the higher reaches of its rivers. The main artery is unquestionably the Yangtze, and the city of Chungking with a population of 300,000, built on nine hills, stands on the north bank of this great river, 1,400 miles from the sea, as the commercial gateway for the entire province. In spite of its picturesque situation and the extraordinary life and bustle of its commercial existence, it is a cheerless city to live in, for the average sunshine is but one day in seven, and it is a Szechuan proverb that when the sun appears at Chungking the dogs bark, so great a stranger is he below Chungking. For a distance of 400 miles, the river is broken by deep gorges and dangerous rapids, and all passengers and merchandise were hauled up in native junks at the advent of steamers within the last few years. The pioneer of steamer enterprise on these upper waters of the Yangtze was the late Archibald Little, who did not live to see his dreams fully realised, but it may fairly be claimed that it was British enterprise and British determination which showed the way for steam navigation on the Upper Yangtze, where it has led others have followed, and to-day a regular service of specially-built steamers is plying between Ichang, the foot of the rapids, and Chungking. Beyond Chungking, too, it was British enterprise which led the way and solved the problem of steam navigation as far as the confines of the Tibetan marches and almost to the city gates of the provincial capital Yunnan.

British prestige in Western China was at a low ebb twenty years ago, but it is high to-day, and this is due in no small measure to British naval officers and bluejackets, who seem to have the happy knack of hitting it off admirably with all classes of the Chinese. "Prestige" is anathema to some people, who would like to eliminate it from the dictionary, but "prestige" is a very real thing, when gained, as ours has been, by firmness combined with tact, patience, and fair dealing; it is, I venture to believe, an asset of incalculable value. In the south-west of Szechuan, and in the great bend of the Yangtze, lies the area known as Liangshan inhabited by the independent Lolos, noted for their physical courage and manly appearance.

Coming to Yunnan, this province is a broken plateau with an average elevation of 6,000 ft., the Chinese element is in the majority in the level lands, while the various members of the tribes predominate in the highlands. These tribes, including Shans, Lolos, and Miao families, constitute a very interesting ethnographical study, and, although earlier arrivals in the province than the Chinese, they do not appear to be the aboriginal inhabitants. The Shans have migrated into Yunnan along two lines from the east and from the north; the Lolos from the east, and the Miao from the east likewise, although the latter date. In addition to these three principal tribes, scattered along the western and north-western frontiers, the capital of the province is Yunnan, at an elevation of 6,300 ft., and described by Marco Polo as a very great and noble city. Most picturesquely situated on the shores of the Kunming lake, surrounded by mountains and wooded hills, it is the terminus of the French railway for Yunnan. This line, about 300 miles long, is the only railway within the whole area of the boundary provinces of western China, and it has long been the dream of many practical men to link up Burma and Yunnan with the vast markets of Szechuan and the Yangtze Valley by a railway. Fascinating as this problem is, however, its solution still lies in the future. The overland communications are very difficult and costly, so that, away from the single line of railway, they are carried slowly and painfully on the backs of pack animals. Inasmuch as its frontier lies on Tibet, Burma, and Indo-China, Yunnan is bound to continue to have a deep political interest outside China. It cannot be denied, however, that the economic outlook of the province is somewhat gloomy, and it would appear that its future progress and material prosperity depend absolutely upon the satisfactory development of its practically mineral resources hitherto unexploited. We have now glanced at these three boundary provinces, isolated from the neighbours of China on the north and on the west for nearly 200 years by the buffer zones of Tibet and Mongolia. The creation of these buffer zones has been no accident, but the deliberate policy of the Manchu Emperor K'ienlung (in the middle of the eighteenth century) probably the most powerful and sagacious of statesmen that ever ruled the Chinese Empire. He was far-seeing enough to perceive that the wastes of Mongolia and Tibet could never be colonised by Chinese, but were formidable buffers against any hostile approach from Central Asia. Tibet has never in any sense been a Chinese province, and to Tibet even more than to Mongolia he granted autonomy, for he foresaw that the spiritual influence of the Dalai Lama at Lhasa and the Tashi Lama at Shigatse would keep in check their corollaries, the Mongol tribes, and a surmounting, even as shrewdly as Turkey once held over Egypt, a precarious attempt to establish Chinese sovereignty in wild and desolate lands. Ever since the close of Kienlung's reign in 1796, there has been a constant struggle between the provincial authorities of Szechuan and the Central Government at Peking as to the policy to be adopted towards Tibet. The former have ever adopted an aggressive attitude towards that country, and the latter have been strenuous in maintaining the status quo. In the days of the Monarchy it was the rule for a strong Viceroy to endeavour to snatch and administer whatever portions of Tibet came convenient to his hand; but he was invariably overruled on the appeal of the Tibetans to the Central Government. The mission to Lhasa met Francis Younghusband took a great deal at first, as you all know, with a great deal of hostility on the side of the Tibetans. The tact and patience of Sir Francis, aided by his extraordinary knowledge of the peoples of Central and Eastern Asia, converted this hostility into good feeling, and the mission departed

from Lhasa leaving behind a most favourable impression not only in the minds of the people generally, but also of the Tibetan hierarchy. The progress of the mission was viewed with suspicion and alarm, and in a weak moment the Court at Peking gave way to evil advice. Chinese troops were sent over the Eastern border and occupied Lhasa, but the conversion of Tibet into a Chinese province was even attempted. The whole campaign has proved disastrous for China, and no dispassionate observer would venture to deny that this fatal departure from her traditional policy has resulted in a very heavy blow to her prestige throughout the whole extent of the buffer zone covering her three western frontiers.

THE DISCUSSION—THE WEALTH OF SECHUAN.

The Chairman said that Szechuan must be one of the most valuable and rich parts of the world. Its vegetable products were exceedingly valuable, and the province also possessed great mineral wealth. Its population of 50 millions—were a very industrious people, and, when all these advantages of climate, fertility, and mineral wealth were considered, one could not help raising how much scope there was for development, providing proper means of communication with the outside world could be found. Mr. Wilton had said that the provincial governors were exceedingly nervous and jealous of our advance from India in that direction, but there was not the slightest cause for that apprehension. We had the tremendous natural obstacle of the Himalayas between us and Szechuan, and he was sure it was not part of the policy of the Government of India to move further in that direction. We did move further in that direction, the mission to Tibet, but there was not the slightest intention or desire for annexation, and, as soon as we had achieved our objects of putting our relationships with the Tibetans on a satisfactory footing, we withdrew from the country. Mr. Wilton said, as a result of our mission to Tibet, there was good feeling now upon the frontier, because that was part of our intention, and in that work Mr. Wilton took a very great part. He was perfectly right when he spoke of the value of prestige. It was hard for people in England to thoroughly understand how great this value was; but those who had travelled, especially those who had travelled alone in out-of-the-way parts of Asia, knew how extremely important it was. This prestige should stand high. It was because of the prestige which was established for our country, as they do in every part of Asia, and that officials like Mr. Wilton were able to carry on their work in these far corners of the Chinese Empire.

Sir Frederick Fryer (late Lieutenant-Governor of Burma) said that when he was in Burma there was considerable hostility between the Chinese and British on the Burma frontier. Our relations with China were now very much more friendly, because every year a party of Chinese officials met a party of our officials to settle any disputes that may have arisen during the past year. In consequence of this, our knowledge of each other had very much improved, and the speaker thought that now it was a fact that our relations on the frontier were generally excellent. There had always been a great desire to carry a railway from the British border into Yunnan, and whilst the speaker was in Burma a road was being made from Bhamo to Tengyueh, which was intended to be practicable for wheeled carriage. We made our part of the road, which was 70 miles long, but up to the time he left the Chinese had not made theirs. He believed it would be quite practicable for a railway to be made as far as Tengyueh, although he was told that beyond Tengyueh there would be considerable difficulties.

MR. GEORGE JAMISON, C.M.G., touching on the commercial side of the question, said, with reference to a railway from Burma into Yunnan, that he hoped some day it would be built. But the whole trend of trade was down the Yangtze towards Shanghai. There would never be any reasonable mode of communication from Szechuan westwards, and the isolation of Szechuan in the past was its misfortune. The only way was down the Yangtze, with its dangerous rapids; and only within the last few years had steamers been constructed which were able to navigate it. Still it was an expensive journey. Freight from Ichang to Nanking, it was interesting to note, was about three times what it was from London to Ichang. The next trunk line to be built in China would be the line to connect Hankow with Szechuan. In fact, the preliminary contracts had been signed, and if it had not been for this shocking war, it would have been well under way. When this railway has been built, commerce will flow easily up and down along the line. It would not be an easy railway to make, because for a great part of the way it was intended to take it through the great gorges. Nevertheless, it could be done. The Chinese need not be afraid that we had any intention of attacking Szechuan from the Indian side. We only wished to have access to it as a market for our goods, and it was an almost untapped market. The population had an enormous amount of goods to give us in return for our merchandise, such as wild silk, which was almost as good as the best silk in Shanghai.

Mr. N. Kato said, with regard to the feeling of the Japanese towards British prestige in China, that there were a few people who thought that the Japanese were competitors in business in the Yangtze Valley, but more enlightened people knew that Japan welcomed the British merchants to develop the resources of the interior of China, with sincere hopes of their success.

In replying to several questions that had been put to him, Mr. Wilton remarked, on the subject of communication between the East and West of China, that he thought the river stood the better chance, especially now that the Maritime Customs had set to work to improve the waterway. He thought something considerable would now be done to modify the cost and remove a great many of the dangers of the navigation of the Upper Yangtze. With regard to a railway from Bhamo to Tengyueh, he did not think that would be tried for some time, and he doubted whether it would pay.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Messrs. Vernon & Smyth, in their weekly share report dated the 4th May, 1917, state:—

Since our last report of 26th April, business in our local market has been very small and restricted. The Settlement passed off satisfactorily, but in the market in a comatose state for several days, although rather more activity has been apparent during the last two days. Investment stocks keep firm, but with scarcely such a good demand as there has been lately. Shanghai has been very quiet, and only a small business has been possible.

Singapore market for Rubber shares remains firm and a fair business has been done.

The following are to-day's wired quotations:—

Alor Gajah	4.25
Ayer Panas	12.60
Gleanealy	2.65
Kedahs	4.35
Kempas	5.10
Malaka Pindas	4.70
Malacca	4.50
New Serendahs	4.50
Sandycrofts	5.20
Tanahs	21.25

Plantation Rubber in London is quoted 3/1 per lb. Bar Silver is quoted 33d. Sterling T.L. is 2/4; Singapore T.L. is 102. The Shanghai T.T. rate and Bank's buying rate for 3d/s. Bills are both nominal.

Banks. Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have kept steady, with sales reported at 71 1/2, and probable further buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have come to business at \$800 ex. div. of \$80, and further shares could be placed at the rate. Nothing has been done in other Companies, and prices are unchanged, and nominal at \$350 (ex. div. of \$25) for Cantons, T.L. 150 for North China, and \$217 for Yangtzes, with ex. 73.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China Fires are quoted at \$148 (ex. div. of \$9) and Hongkong Fires at the reduced rate of \$325.

SHIPPING.—Douglases have been very quiet, but little has been done in them. They are offering at \$85 with buyers in the neighbourhood of \$84. Indo-China Deferred were done from \$124 down to \$123 for cash, at which latter rate fair quantities were reported sold. Considerable sales were also made at \$123 1/2 June, and \$124 to \$125 July. Since which, under the influence of rumours of a variable nature, market has strengthened, and the shares are now wanted at \$124 cash. Star Ferries have been sold at \$32, and buyers now offer \$31 1/2. Steamboats have been steady, with a few sales at \$15.

ORLS.—Shells have been quiet, but small sales have been made at 108 1/2. Langkats are wanted at T.L. 16 1/2 (ex. dividend of one Tael). Ural Caspians are nominal at 31 1/2.

REFINERIES.—This market has been very quiet with scarcely any business passing. China Sugars are wanted at \$113 1/2, and Malabars are quoted at \$32 nominal.

MINES.—Rubbers are reported done at \$2.50 and \$2.60, the latter figure remaining the nominal quotation. Kailans are wanted at \$1 1/2, but the price does not tempt sellers. Tronols are on offer at 27 1/2.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been quiet, and only a small business has been done. They close steady, with buyers at \$123 1/2 cash. Rowloon Wharves have been done at \$78, and there are sellers at \$80. Shanghai Docks have come to business at T.L. 90, and there are further buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—A small sale of Lands at \$97 1/2 is all there is to report in this market. Centrals could probably be obtained at \$89. Other lines are nominal and unchanged on the week, with the exception of West Points which are wanted at \$77.

COTTON MILLS.—Shanghai market has been quiet, and prices are rather lower. Ewos are in request at T.L. 150, and Shanghai Cottons at T.L. 120. Kung Yiks could be placed at T.L. 145. Yangtzepeeps are nominal at T.L. 53.

MISCELLANEOUS.—A small business has been done in Cement at \$8.10, and more shares could probably be disposed of at the rate. A fair quantity of Trams has been done at \$6.80 ex. dividend of 48 cents, and there are further buyers. Dairy Farms are wanted at \$23 1/2. China Lights at \$4 1/2, and Watsons at \$6 1/2. Watsons have come to business at \$6.60, but more shares are offering at the rate. China Borneo and China Providents are both nominal at \$3. Waterboats are quoted \$28 1/2 nominal, also Waterboats at \$18.

MEMO.—Next Settlement Day, 30th May.

SPORT.

LEAGUE TENNIS.

The following are the teams to represent the Kowloon Club in the matches to-day.

DIVISION 1.

K.C.C. (A) v. University. (A) on the latter ground.—S. E. Green and F. Abraham, W. Kay and L. Forster, C. R. Chunyut and J. V. Bragg.

DIVISION 11.

K.C.C. (B) v. University. (B) on the latter ground.—C. W. Jeffries and C. C. Stark, C. Stapleton and J. Ralston, J. W. Christian and R. H. Jewsbury.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

ROYAL ENGINEERS v. "THE REST."

This exhibition match, which was postponed last Saturday, on account of the weather, will be played to-day at 5 p.m. on the Club Ground. After the game the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak will present the cup and medals to the Royal Engineer team, who are winners of the Hongkong League. A collection will be made on the ground for St. Dunstan's Home for blind sailors and soldiers.

POLICE RESERVE DISCIPLINE. INTERESTING ARGUMENT AT THE MAGISTRACY.

At the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday the case was reopened in which a Chinese Police Reservist was sentenced to seven days' hard labour by Mr. J. R. Wood on various charges of absence from parades and patrols, including punishment drills. The case was reopened at the request of Mr. Leo d'Almada, who claimed that the Magistrate had no power to sentence the man to imprisonment.

At the outset Mr. Potter stated that he was appearing for Mr. Jenkin, D.S.P. R., as the latter was unable to conduct the case owing to a bad throat.

Mr. d'Almada entered a preliminary objection to this, and said he would like to know whether Mr. Potter was appearing as Counsel on behalf of the D.S.P. or as an officer of the Police Reserve.

Mr. Potter said that he was appearing as an officer of the Police Reserve.

Mr. d'Almada then stated that the prosecution was initiated by Mr. Franks and he was the person who should conduct the prosecution. He did not think either Mr. Jenkin or Mr. Potter had a right to appear, except as *amici curiae*.

Mr. Potter said that Mr. d'Almada could call him *amici curiae* or anything else, but he would like his Worship to note that he did not agree with what his friend had said, in case it was questioned subsequently.

Mr. Potter then proceeded to address the Court. He said that the only point they had to deal with was whether defendant came within the provisions of the Police Reserve Ordinance, and if he came within the Peace Preservation Ordinance then he must come within the Police Reserve Ordinance. If the Magistrate was not so then his client was not even a member of the Police Reserve. It seemed to him (Mr. Potter) that that point was simply answered, and in a very simple way by the Proclamation which was issued on September 3rd, 1915, in connection with the Police Reserve. Mr. d'Almada contended that that Proclamation only applied to people who were members of the Reserves on that date. That Proclamation was the same as law, and that being so, it was in the same position as the Statutes, and was in force until it was repealed. That Proclamation referred to the past, the present and the future, and could not be made to read in any other way. Mr. d'Almada said that the Proclamation only referred to the "present members of the Police Reserve" on the date of the issue of the Proclamation. Such a suggestion seemed to him to be absolutely absurd. His Worship could not insert the word "present" in the Proclamation, which had the same effect as a Statute. If they did the same thing to a Statute it would simply wipe them all away. They would never find the word "present" in any of the Statutes. His Worship was asked to say that the Proclamation did not apply to the future, and to put in the word "present," and if he did not do this then the case for the other side must fail. The fallacy in his friend's case was that he overlooked the fact that the Proclamation had the same effect as law, and by it the members of the Police Reserve were subject to certain liabilities. If Mr. d'Almada was held to be right they would get rid of 75 per cent. of the crime of that Colony, and there would be nothing left but common-law crimes. To suggest that that Proclamation only referred to a particular date and a particular lot of men only was absurd, and it was obviously against the intention of the legislature. No court could construe the Ordinance in that way. It was obvious what the intention of the Proclamation was. It was to form a body of police, and when that body was formed the members were made liable to certain penalties. That was obvious from section 10. Did they think seriously that the intention of the legislature was merely to protect men who were originally members of the Corps, and who numbered only twenty? Did they really think that for one moment? He did not think his Worship could think that that was so. And they could not get protection unless there were certain liabilities, and that protection could only be obtained under the Peace Preservation Ordinance. Section 3 of the Proclamation stated that every member of the Reserve, upon joining, shall sign a form, Schedule A, and the defendant, in common with all others had signed it. That form stated that he was subject to the provisions of the Police Reserve Ordinance, and the rules and regulations thereunder in force. If there was no penalty for breach of the regulations, then his friend's client would be liable to be indicted for a common-law offence and be sent to trial, and his last fate would be worse than the first.

Mr. d'Almada said he would dismiss his learned friend's argument in a very few words. At the time the Ordinance was passed, he said, there was not a single member of the Police Reserve, for it was only contemplated to form one. When the time came to enrol men, they came under the Ordinance, but not before. Later the Proclamation was issued so that the members of the Force would be given the protection of the Peace Preservation Ordinance, but he did not think that the penalties were ever intended to apply. He went on to quote the exact words, and argued that penalties were not intended. The Court, he said, had no right to read into a Proclamation what was not expressly stated, and that why he argued that the provisions of the Peace Preservation Ordinance only applied to those members who had joined (Continued at foot of next column.)

PIECE WORK TAILORS. AN INTERESTING DECISION.

An interesting decision was given by Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court yesterday, in a case in which Madame Flint, dressmaker and milliner, summoned two tailors for refusing to complete dresses which they had been given to do as piece-workers. The men were summoned under the Employers and Servants Ordinance, and the question had arisen in the previous hearing as to whether piece-work was a contract within the meaning of the Ordinance.

Madame Flint was represented by Mr. F. C. Jenkin (instructed by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens). His Worship, in giving his decision, referred to a case heard in 1903 in which Messrs. Powells' prosecuted a master tailor, that case being dismissed. He now held that men employed to do a certain job had no right to leave, they were not employed, and ought to be convicted and punished. He fined the men \$10 each and ordered them to each pay \$10 compensation.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY. OPIUM ON A JUNK.

Mr. Grist appeared to defend a junk woman, who was charged with having on board her junk 110 taels of opium. The junk was raided by the police a few nights ago and the drug was discovered in the sleeping quarters. The solicitor stated that the woman left her boat for sometime on the night of the raid, and that when she returned she went straight to bed. She knew nothing at all about the opium until it was discovered by the police. Judgment was reserved.

CONCERT AT MOUNT DAVIS.

A successful company concert was held at Mount Davis on Thursday evening, when a long musical programme was provided by the men stationed in the fort. The arrangements were carried out by a Committee under the direction of C. S. M. Allison, and the concert owed its success mainly to their efforts. C. S. M. Allison presided, and amongst those present were Major G. M. De Quincey, Captain A. J. S. Roche-Kelly, Lieut. J. P. Jones, Lieut. F. C. Millington and Lieut. H. H. Wilkinson. All the items were well received. Special mention should be made, perhaps, of Corp. Griffiths in "I've lost all ambition in life," Lieut. Millington in "Wrap me in my Mosquito curtain" (especially composed for the occasion), and Sergt. Tipper and "Queenie" in their duet. Lieut. Wilkinson, as "Queenie," was a great success, and, acting the part of an exceedingly young lady very cleverly, caused much merriment. The programme was as follows: Piano solo, duet, Gr. Bain and Silcock; song, "When they ask you," Gr. Martin; song, "What a funny little place," Gr. Windsor; song, "The long, long Trail," Br. Jones; song, "They went to the usual place, you know," Sergt. Smith, R.E.; song, "There's a little black cupid in the moon," Br. Powell; song, "Lost all ambition in life," Cpl. Griffiths; song, "Sunshine of your smile," Br. Mancini; song, "John Peel," Gr. Hayes; song, "Wrap me in my Mosquito curtain," Lieut. Millington; song, "If there weren't any women in the world," Br. Cooper; duet, "If you were the only girl," Sergt. Tipper and "Queenie," recitation, "The shipwreck of the Dover Express," Gr. Moss; overture, Gr. H. Jones; song, "Every kind of trouble by the sea," Cpl. Griffiths; song, "Down the Vale," Br. Jones; song, "Parody on John Peel," Sergt. Smith, R.E.; song, "All Irish," Br. Powell; song, "What would the congregator say," Gr. Martin; trio, "Three Blind Rats," Cpl. Griffiths, Cpl. Smith and Br. Champion; song, "The old Grey Coat," Gr. Hayes; song, "A picture no artist can paint," Br. Cooper; duet, "They wouldn't believe me," Sergt. Tipper and "Queenie," song, "Homeland," Gr. Windsor; recitation, "The Kaiser's trip in an airship," Gr. Moss; and an encore by Sergt. Smith, R.E. The pianists were Master-Gunner Raasmussen, Grs. Silcock and Hill. Before the singing of the National Anthem Sergt. Major Allison mentioned that the Company was indebted to the Services Entertainment Fund for providing the refreshments, etc., and called upon all present to give three hearty cheers for those who so kindly contributed to the fund. These were heartily given.

the Police Reserve at the time of the Proclamation. He thought it was clear that the Legislature never intended to make a man who was voluntarily serving the Crown subject to the same penalties as a man who was called upon to serve in the interests of peace, and refused. There was no intention to punish him in the severe manner the defendant was to have been punished. There was not one single man in the Police Reserve who was serving under compulsion, and he was certain that there was no intention to provide such severe penalties. The man at the helm of the Force were left to keep order. The Hon. C.S.P. had the power to deduct \$25 from a regular policeman's pay, and in the Metropolitan Force the man was first taken before the Chief and then, if necessary, before a Magistrate. In the Police Reserve a man was publicly summoned. He asked his Worship to discharge the man because there was no power to punish him in the manner sought.

Mr. Potter replied, and said that if Mr. d'Almada's arguments held good, then half the force was absolutely worthless. He contended that the Proclamation was clearly intended to make the Police Reserve subject to disciplinary measures. His Worship indicated that he wanted time to consider the various points raised, and it was decided that his decision would be given on Tuesday afternoon at 4.15.

The defendant was again released on bail.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

ORDERS BY LIEUT.-COL. A. CHAPMAN, V.D.

1.—JOINED.

J. B. Thomson having been transferred from H.K.V.R. to H.K.V.C., is allotted Corps No. 2093 and posted to Engineer Company, with effect from 3rd March, 1917.

Spr. Sabán Jomai having joined, is allotted Corps No. 2094 and posted to Engineer Company.

2.—LEAVE.

No. 2093 Spr. F. T. Marques is granted leave for the duration of the War from 27th April, 1917.
No. 1849 Sergt. J. Davies is granted leave for the duration of the War from 26th April, 1917.
No. 1638 Sergt. J. H. Lawrence is granted 1 month's leave from 27.4.17.
No. 1598 Sergt. K. de C. Longmire is granted 1 month's leave from 3.5.17.
No. 2059 Pte. J. W. Stackhouse is granted 1 month's leave from 30.4.17.
No. 1894 Gr. A. H. Carroll is granted 1 month's leave from 1.5.17.
No. 1841 Spr. C. W. Brown is granted 14 days' leave from 28.4.17.

3.—DRESS.

Belts need not be worn in walking out dress during the summer months, viz., 15th April to 15th November, but khaki jackets will be worn every where, and shirt sleeves are prohibited. Stocks or ties will be carried.

4.—PUNISHMENT.

No. 1493 Gr. G. Fisher and No. 1935 Gr. J. E. Meyer have been awarded defaulters' drills in marching order (without ammunition) for neglect of duty as under.
No. 1493 Gr. G. Fisher at Headquarters, at 5.10 p.m., on 4th, 7th, 11th, and 14th May.
No. 1935 Gr. J. E. Meyer at Headquarters, at 5.10 p.m., on 4th, 7th, 11th, 14th, 18th, 21st, 25th, and 28th May.

5.—PROMOTIONS.

To be Corporals dated 1.5.17.—No. 1925 2nd-Cpl. W. J. Eldridge, No. 1677 2nd-Cpl. J. L. Blackburn.
To be 2nd Corporals dated 1.5.17.—No. 1833 Le-Cpl. D. M. McKay, No. 1734 Le-Cpl. J. S. McIntosh.
To be Lance-Corporals dated 1.5.17.—No. 1748 Spr. D. McNeillie, No. 1518 Spr. J. England, No. 1622 Spr. R. Dring, No. 1721 Spr. W. R. Oswald.

6.—PARADES.

Monday, 7th instant:—
5.15 p.m. Left: Right Sections M.G. Co. Scouts Co. and Civil Service Co. outside Courts of Justice under unit Commanders and proceed by car to Polo Ground.
5.10 p.m. Centre Section M.G. Co. drill at Kowloon Dock. Hongkong residents proceed by launch from Statue Wharf at 4.30 p.m.
5.15 p.m. Recruits of all units on Murray Parade Ground under Corp. Edgumbe, Grimes and Edmonds.
5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery at Belchers Battery.

Tuesday, 8th instant:—
7.30 a.m. Belchers 6" Section at Belchers Battery.
5.15 p.m. Mounted Section at Jockey Club Stables.
5.15 p.m. Stretcher Bearer Section at Headquarters.
5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery at Belchers Battery.
5.40 p.m. Signalling Section, "A" class, at Happy Valley.

Wednesday, 9th instant:—
5.15 p.m. Belchers 6" Section, Left, Centre, Right Section M.G. Co. Scouts Co. and Civil Service Co. at Headquarters for lecture by Captain G. E. Stewart, H.K.V.C., on "Musketry Instruction." A note book and pencil to be brought by every member attending.
5.30 p.m. Signalling Section, "B" class, at R. A. Theatre.

Thursday, 10th instant:—
5.15 p.m. Mounted Section at Jockey Club Stables.
5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery at Belchers Battery.
Friday 11th May:—
7.30 a.m. Belchers 6" Section at Belchers Battery.
5.15 p.m. Recruits of all units on Murray Parade Ground. C. S. M. Whitwell, Corp. Grimes and Edgumbe will attend.
5.30 p.m. Signalling Section, "B" class, at R. A. Theatre.
5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery at Belchers Battery.

7.—DETAIL.

On duty 13th inst. Right Section M. G. Co.
On duty 14th inst. Scouts Company.
On duty 15th inst. Scouts Company.
On duty 16th inst. Civil Service Company.
On duty 17th inst. Centre Section M. G. Co.
On duty 18th inst. Right Section M. G. Co.
On duty 19th inst. Scouts Company.
Orderly Officer from 15th to 18th inst.—Lieut. Kennett.
A. F. CHURCHILL, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.V.C.
Hongkong, May 4th, 1917.

CHINA AND THE CULTIVATION OF BEET SUGAR.

It is of more than passing interest to note, observes the American Consul General, Mr. George E. Anderson, in a report on the Hongkong sugar trade, that the Chinese Government has been conducting experiments for some time with a view to introducing sugar-beet culture in China. Experiments have been greatly interfered with by the difficulty of securing seed, which is said to have increased in price from \$8 to \$85 per bushel, with very little to be had at any price; but sugar men here, says Mr. Anderson, are of the opinion that China is not very far distant when China will produce most, if not all, of the sugar required for its people and thus release a large amount of Java and Philippine sugar for use in other parts of the world.

HONGKONG RESERVES.

ORDERS BY MAJOR WAREMAN, O.C., H.K.V.R.

DETAIL.

On duty from the morning of Sunday, 6th May to the morning of Sunday, 12th May.—"A" Coy. H.K.V.R. Orderly Officer—2/Lieut. R. Sutherland. Next for duty—H.K.V.C.

PARADES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 12TH MAY.

Monday, 7th inst.:—
Signalling Section: "A" and "B" Classes at Volunteer Headquarters at 5.15 p.m. Dress: Clean fatigue. Machine-gun Section at Wellington Barracks at 5.15 p.m. Dress: Clean fatigue.

Tuesday, 8th inst.:—
Mounted Section at Jockey Club Stables at 5.15 p.m. Dress: Drill order.
"A" and "B" Coys. and recruits on the road outside the Orderly Room at 5.15 p.m. Kowloon and Taikeo Sections on the Polo Ground at 5.30 p.m. Dress: Drill order.

Wednesday, 9th inst., nil.

Thursday, 10th inst.:—
Signalling Section: "A" and "B" Classes at Volunteer Headquarters at 5.15 p.m. Dress: Clean fatigue. Machine-gun Section at Wellington Barracks at 5.15 p.m. Dress: Clean fatigue. Mounted Section at Jockey Club Stables at 5.15 p.m. Dress: Drill order.

Friday, 11th inst.:—
"A" and "B" Coys. and recruits on the road outside the Orderly Room at 5.15 p.m. Kowloon and Taikeo Sections on the Polo Ground at 5.30 p.m. Dress: Drill order.

Saturday, 12th inst.:—
Machine-gun Section will carry out Field Firing at Kowloon City Range. Fall in at Murray Pier 1.30 p.m. Dress: Drill order.

PROMOTIONS, OFFICERS, SUPERNUMERARY LIST, OFFICERS.

The following notification No. 174 of Government Gazette, April 27th, 1917, is published for information:—"H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint 2nd-Lieut. M. R. H. Hancock and C. W. Beswick to be Lieutenants, and Dr. H. Balaan to be a Surgeon-Lieut., Hongkong Volunteer Reserve, and to place Captain G. K. Hall, Captain D. Landale, and 2nd-Lieut. F. Grone and J. W. C. Bonnar on the Supernumerary List, Officers, Hongkong Volunteer Reserve, all with effect from the 25th April, 1917."

NOTICE.

From 1st May to 15th November, Caps are not to be worn after 7 a.m. or before 5 p.m. Helmets or Topies should invariably be worn between these hours. Topies will be worn at all parades from this date.

(Sd.) C. CHAPMAN, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.V.R.
Hongkong, 4th May, 1917.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS.

The Police Surgeons may be seen as follows:—
The Surgeon Superintendent—2 to 6 p.m. on any week days—except Saturday.
The Assistant Surgeon Superintendent—10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on any week days.

COMPANY PARADES.

Monday, May 7th—No. 2 Company.
Tuesday, May 8th—No. 3 Company and Ambulance Platoon.
Wednesday, May 9th—No. 1 Section and 2nd Platoon. Also No. 2 Section at Water Police Station.
Thursday, May 10th—Ambulance Platoon at Tung Wah Hospital 6 p.m. White uniform with helmets will be worn on these parades.

POLICE SCHOOL.

All members of Classes IX., X., and XI. will attend, in plain clothes, at Queen's College at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 11th, for exemption by Mr. T. H. King, A.S.P. Members due for patrol duty on this date will attend the examination and not report for duty.
(Sd.) F. C. JENKIN, D.S.P. (R.).
Hongkong, 4th May, 1917.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

HONGKONG AND CHINA DISTRICT.

Y.M.C.A. DIVISION.

Tuesday, May 8th:—
8 p.m. First Aid Lecture by Surgeon S. F. Lee.
8 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.
Thursday, May 10th:—
6 p.m. Bandage Practice. Corporal Wei Kan will take charge.
9 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.

SAIKINGPUN DIVISION.

Monday, May 7th:—
7 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.
Wednesday, May 9th:—
7 p.m. Gymnasium, Bandage Practice.
Friday, May 11th:—
7 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE DIVISION.

Tuesday, May 8th:—
4.15 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.
Wednesday, May 9th:—
12.45 p.m. Gymnasium. Members of the Sailingpun Division may attend.
Friday, May 11th:—
4.15 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.

VICTORIA DIVISION.

Tuesday, May 8th:—
5.15 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.
Thursday, May 10th:—
7.45 p.m. First Aid Lecture for Recruits: Tung Wah Hospital.
Friday, May 11th:—
5.15 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.
(Sd.) E. RALPHS, (Officer in Charge of District.)
Hongkong, May 5th 1917.

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

AERTEX CELLULAR.

THE IDEAL MATERIAL FOR SUMMER WEAR.



UNDERWEAR, SHIRTS, PYJAMAS,

UNDERVESTS From \$2.00 PER TRUNK DRAWERS GARMENT.

EXTRA LIGHT WEIGHTS IN DAY AND TENNIS SHIRTS.

KHAKI SHIRTS WITH COLLAR ATTACHED.

NON-ACTINIC LISLE THREAD "AERTEX" UNDERVESTS AND GOLF SHIRTS

MADE FROM RED YARNS WHICH HAVE BEEN CHEMICALLY TESTED AND PROVED TO BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE HOTTEST SUN

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

A.V.C. FINEST OLD LIQUEUR BRANDY.

GUARANTEED 30 YEARS OLD.

V. D. CLARETS. V. D. SAUTERNES. V. D. BURGUNDIES.

Stocked by HONGKONG HOTEL. Obtainable at LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

A. & B. MACKAY'S LIQUEUR WHISKY. THE ORIGINAL LIQUEUR WHISKY.

PRICE \$24.00 PER CASE DUTY PAID.

Has a fine mild flavour and a refreshing clean taste.

Obtainable at all Local Stores.

and at LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Wm. Powell Ltd
TELEPHONE 3446

CURTAINS

Hemstitched, Frilled and Scalloped
Madras Muslins,
Book Muslins, Fillet Nets,
Combination Nets,
Hemstitched Harness Muslins,
Nottingham Lace Curtains.

CURTAINS

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the HONGKONG CLUB will be held in the Club House on MONDAY, the 14th May, 1917, at 5.15 P.M.

BUSINESS:—As set forth in the Notice posted in the Hall of the Club.

By Order,
E. DES VŒUX,
Secretary. 610

Hongkong, 4th May, 1917.

REMARKABLE WORK DONE

BY

DR. AND MR. McCANDLISS.

WE, Members of the Community of Hainan, are grateful to Dr. and Mr. McCandliss for the good services which they have rendered to this Country.

Dr. McCandliss was sent to this Island 30 years ago by the Presbyterian Mission of America for the purpose of establishing a Hospital for the poor. He has shown the greatest skill in his work and very few of his patients leave the Hospital without being cured.

We are also indebted to Mrs. McCandliss, a sympathetic and tender-hearted woman, for the establishment of a School for Boys and Girls at Holloway, where previously there was no Girls' School in existence, although it is the great commercial centre of Hainan.

The benefit we have received from both Dr. and Mrs. McCandliss is so great that we cannot but express our thanks through your valuable columns to them and to the Presbyterian Mission in America.

THE CHINESE COMMUNITY OF HAINAN. [611]

KONINKLIJKE PAKETVAART MY.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship

"VAN WAERWYCK"

having arrived from the above port, Consignees of Cargo by her are notified that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the warehouse and/or care of Messrs. Godown of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by the 11th May will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 10th May, 1917, at 10 A.M.

Claims against the Steamer must be presented in writing within 10 days after arrival of Steamer, otherwise they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by the undersigned in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JAVACHINA-JAPAN LIJN, Agents.

Hongkong, 4th May, 1917. [612]

NOTICE.

I HAVE THIS DAY REMOVED MY OFFICE from Queen's Building to 2nd Floor of Messrs. A. TACK & Co.'s Building, Des Vœux Road Central.

WHEI A YUK.
Hongkong, 30th April, 1917. [599]

NOTICE.

WE HAVE FROM THIS DAY OPENED OUR OFFICE at New York, San Francisco and Hongkong under the Firm Name of KARANJIA & Co.

Our Local Office is situated at No. 2, Connaught Road.

KARANJIA & Co.
Hongkong, 30th April, 1917. [594]

WANTED.

SMALL GOODS LEFT, about 4' x 4', preferably electrically driven.

Apply—
A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd. [680]

RUSSIAN 5% INTERNAL LIBERTY LOAN 1917.

Subscription to the LIBERTY LOAN is opened at THE RUSSO-ASIA FIC BANK, Hongkong, from date to the 26th June, 1917.

The price of issue is 85 per cent.

The Loan is free of Income Tax and other taxation.

The Loan is issued for 55 years and will be redeemable at par by yearly drawings beginning in December, 1922.

The Loan may be reimbursed at par after the 29th March, 1927.

Corpses are payable half-yearly on the 19th March and the 29th September.

Interest on the loan runs from the 29th March, 1917, interest from that date to be added to the price of issue.

Special favourable rates will be quoted for Russian Exchange.

Applications will be wired to Petrograd free of telegraphic charges and Bonds will be forwarded free of postal expenses.

The Bank is ready to give every facility to subscribers in the shape of advances against the Bonds.

G. TISDALL,

Manager. [609]

TO LET

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Epsom.

A FLAT in Humphreys Buildings, Kowloon.

TO LET OR FOR SALE.

KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48 with built area 53,000 sq. ft., suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godowns.

Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings. [625]

PUBLIC COMPANIES

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TWENTY EIGHTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Co.'s Office, St. George's Buildings, TO-DAY SATURDAY, the 5th May, 1917, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of presenting the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts to 28th February, 1917, and electing Directors and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 21st April to the 5th May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 17th April, 1917. [532]

INDO-CHINA TEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

THE THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at the Office of the General Managers, Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Des Vœux Road, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 9th May, at NOON, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, passing the Accounts, and electing Directors and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 2nd May to the 23rd May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,
General Managers,
Hongkong, 25th April, 1917. [572]

THE CHINA-BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE FOURTEENTH YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, at 11 A.M. on FRIDAY, the 18th May, 1917, to receive a Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1916, and the Report of the General Manager and Consulting Committee, and to elect a Consulting Committee and Auditor.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 5th instant to the 18th May, both days inclusive.

THE CHINA-BORNEO CO., LTD.,
W. G. DABRY,
General Manager.
Hongkong, 3rd May, 1917. [608]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Certificate No. 5/NS 1956 dated Hongkong 21st February, 1912, for Three Shares numbered 67839, 14321, and 89966 registered in the name of Mrs. MARIA DAS NEVES RINZAO has been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 11th day of May, 1917, a New Certificate for the shares will be issued, and the aforesaid Certificate No. 5/NS 1956 will thereafter be treated by this Corporation as Null and Void.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
N. J. STABB,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 11th April, 1917. [590]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

HOUSE, No. 4, Conduit Road, 4 ROOMS, basement and out-houses, Rent Moderate.

Apply to—
F. M. GUTIERREZ,
Care of Messrs. SHAW, TOWERS & Co. [607]

TO LET.

ONE ROOM suitable for an OFFICE.

Apply to—
DENNIS & BOWLEY. [593]

TO LET.

NO. 10, SEYMOUR TERRACE, From 1st June, 1917.

Apply to—
P. M. N. DA SILVA,
6, Des Vœux Road. [591]

TO LET.

NO. 2, STEWART TERRACE, PRINCE'S BUILDINGS.

Apply to—
H. E. POLLOCK,
Princo's Buildings. [57]

TO LET.

1 NEW HOUSE in Conduit Road, Ready for occupation. Also 1 GODOWN in Duddell Street.

For rent and other particulars apply to—
H. M. H. NEMAZEE,
1 Des Vœux Road. [402]

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry, Two very desirable SHOPS situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.

For rent and other particulars apply to—
TAN MANAUEL,
Hongkong Ice Co. Ltd.,
46, Connaught Road Central. [401]

TO LET.

OFFICES in King's and York Buildings. HOUSES in Clifton Gardens, Conduit Road. HOUSES in Broadwood and Moreton Terrace.

HOUSES on Shansien Canton.

Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO. LTD. [38]

INTIMATION

WATSON'S OLD BROWN BRANDY

E QUALITY.



25 YEARS IN WOOD.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

TELEPHONE 414.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10, Des Vœux Road, C.

LONDON OFFICE: 111, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG 5TH MAY, 1917.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

GREAT Britain's expenditure during the past financial year was considerably over two thousand million pounds. The estimated deficit for the next twelve months is more than one thousand six hundred millions, and the National Debt, excluding the loans to our Allies and Dominions, already amounts roughly to three thousand million pounds. A hundred years ago, when the National Debt reached the unprecedented figure of nine hundred millions the financial burden upon the population of twenty millions was considered almost insupportable. In 1914 the debt was seven hundred millions, and in the light of present experience it is amusing to recall the extravagant fears which were expressed then that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would drive the country to financial disaster by proposals which demanded the "enormous" increase of ten million pounds in revenue. Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN was cheered to the echo in the House of Commons when, in his criticism of Mr. Lloyd George's Budget, he warned the nation that it was spending more than it could afford. The attempt to raise £210,000,000 filled him with serious misgiving. "Within a very brief space of time," he said, "we have created, and are continuing to create, standards of national expenditure which would not merely have filled with horror gentlemen who were in the House when many of us entered, and continued with us for years afterwards, but would have been treated by them as absolutely inconceivable."

Now, the House of Commons authorises almost mechanically the expenditure of two thousand two hundred and ninety millions and regards without any sign of alarm the piling up of a debt absolutely without parallel in history. It is one of the most remarkable changes which the great war has effected. The magnitude of the figures has not fixed our legislators, nor have their perceptions become blunted by the strain and the suffering which the turmoil of the past three years have occasioned. They are no longer politicians concerned chiefly with domestic affairs. Their whole outlook has broadened, and they are confident now that the trade, the resources and the wealth of the Empire are more than sufficient to meet every demand. As Mr. CHAMBERLAIN remarked, "to the great men of the past" the annual expenditure of over £200,000,000 would be absolutely inconceivable. Our present rate of expenditure would be inconceivable to all of us had we not learned the lessons which a world-wide war can teach.

Introducing his Budget for the ensuing financial year, Mr. BONAR LAW made the welcome announcement that the Dominions will henceforth be able to supply their own needs, and there is no doubt that the financial assistance of America will help materially to lighten the financial burden upon our Allies. Great Britain's receipts for the past financial year amounted to five hundred and seventy-three million pounds, and exceeded the estimates by seventy-one million pounds. From this it will be seen that no inconsiderable part of our expenditure is being met out of revenue. No other belligerent, declared Mr. BONAR LAW, could show such satisfactory figures as these. As a matter of fact not one has attempted to pay even the interest on its war loans by taxation. Last year the Excess Profits Duty yielded fifty-four millions sterling, and the Income-tax ten millions sterling more than was anticipated. No new taxes are proposed for the ensuing financial year, but the Excess Profits duty has been raised from 60 per cent. to 80 per cent. By this means it is expected to produce an additional twenty millions. Another seven and a half millions will be raised by increases in the Entertainment tax and Tobacco tax. A guiding principle in the difficult task of arranging the incidence of taxation should be the refusal to allow anyone to profit from the war, which is imposing such heavy sacrifices upon the nation as a whole, and upon this ground the increase in the Excess Profits Duty will be generally approved. The new duty is retrospective from January 1st, but concessions will be made in regard to interest on new capital introduced since August, 1914. So far as shipping is concerned, the excess profits will not be taxed, but, in lieu of this, the Government will requisition the tonnage it needs at a fixed rate. With the additional twenty-seven and a half millions to be raised by these three methods, the revenue for the year is placed at no less than £638,600,000. The expenditure is estimated at £2,290,391,000, and leaves a deficit of £1,651,791,000 to be covered by loan. It is impossible fully to grasp the significance of such colossal figures, but the position is not so alarming as it appears at first sight when it is remembered that our national debt is almost equalled by what the experts describe as our "national income" for one year. The nation, to use Mr. McKenna's illustration, is in the position of a man with an income of £5,000 a year whose total debts amount to £5,000. Such a state is far removed from insolvency, and justifies Mr. BONAR LAW's assurance that "want of money will not prevent us from winning the war."

The Peak Sunday School has been closed for the summer months, until further notice.

An extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Hongkong Club will be held in the Club House on Monday, May 14th at 5.15 p.m.

In the recent estimates for the Foreign and Colonial Services, the Service in China is put down at £78,982, and that for Japan and Siam at £38,533.

A cable has been received stating that Miss Bakewell and Miss Storr, of the local staff of the Church Missionary Society, who travelled via Canada, have arrived safely in England.

Mr. Templeton, Assistant Manager of the Taikoo Sugar Refinery, has reported to the Police that sometime on the 2nd inst. a person stole from the dining room of his house at Cornhill the sum of \$200 in money.

Colonel (Temporary Major-General) V. B. Fane, C.B., C.I.E., Indian Army, who served in the China Expedition of 1900, has been promoted Major-General for distinguished service in the field.

Colonel (Temporary Major-General) H. T. Brooking, K.C.B., Indian Army, who has been promoted Major-General for distinguished service in the field, served on the Staff in the China Expedition of 1900, and was present at the relief of Peking.

Last week, a shop coolie reported to the police that he had been assaulted and robbed of \$2,000 money which had been entrusted to him. It has now been discovered that the report was a false one, and that the whole affair was nothing more nor less than an opium swindle.

Major-General Sir H. V. Cox, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.S.I., Indian Army, who has been promoted Lieutenant-General for distinguished service in the field, took part in the China Expedition of 1900. He has been mentioned in despatches and awarded the K.C.M.G. for services in the present war.

Colonel (Temporary Major-General) W. C. Barratt, C.B., D.S.O., Indian Army, who has been promoted Major-General in recognition of his valuable services in connection with the war, has seven campaigns to his credit. He was present at the Relief of Peking in 1900, and at the actions of Pietsang and Yangtsum.

The Bishop of Victoria's engagements for to-morrow, (Sunday), are follow—

8.15, celebrate Holy Communion at the Peak Church; 11 a.m., preach at the Cathedral and celebrate Holy Communion; 6 p.m., preach at St. Andrew's, Kowloon. On Monday he is to conduct a United Prayer meeting in the Helens May Institute at 6 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HONGKONG AND THE GERMANS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR.—We have at last "a Daniel come to judgment" in the person of your correspondent, Mr. J. H. McGuigan. Although he might have enlarged more on the supposed credit evil by showing how English manufacturers and banks themselves countenanced this system by granting the German merchants D/A terms, his letter is, on the whole, a masterpiece of logical reasoning and lucidity, and voices the opinion of no small section of the community. It would surprise Mr. Holyoak and his deluded (I use the word advisedly) supporters if they could be aware of the number of people who are in opposition to their proposal and should include the Chinese, I would venture to say that the exclusionists would actually find themselves in a minority. It is astonishing how otherwise rational human beings could be led astray by the utterly fallacious arguments of the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, and I dare say, if passionate hate had not biased the sentiments expressed at the late Mass Meeting, the result of the voting would have been somewhat different. The opposing party at this meeting and the previous Chamber of Commerce sitting was, with the exception of a few courageous souls, conspicuous by its absence, not so much because of any inherent lukewarmness as from the laudable desire of wishing to avoid a disturbance, which seemed inevitable owing to the blindness of the supporters of the movement. The fear of being stupidly dubbed "Pro-Germans" by the ignorant for a mere difference of opinion, no doubt also deterred many from putting in an appearance. And what an unedifying spectacle would they have been obliged to witness had they attended? Revolting blood-thirstiness, unworthy of true British spirit, normed the proceedings, and this is inexcusable unless sanctified by the heat of battle. If the "hate" meeting had only resulted in a general collection for the Overseas Club Aeroplane Fund good might have come out of evil, but then I presume there would not have been such a full house. I think it high time that some "really great men" came forward to subdue our local firebrands. Thank God we have in H.E. Sir Henry May a Governor who will not let them run amok to the detriment of the Colony. Yours respectfully,

"COMMONSENSE."

SHAVING THE BRIDES FACE.

When a case was being discussed at the Hongkong Summary Court yesterday, which was "list day," it was stated that the defendant (a Chinese) entered into a contract with plaintiff for the marriage of his daughter to plaintiff on April 12th, 1917, and plaintiff, on consideration of this, paid her \$210. The wedding, for some reason or other, did not even take, and plaintiff claims the money he handed to defendant, and also money he alleges to have spent on pork, wine, candles, fish, two dollars to the bride's sister, a further dollar paid to the same person for having the bride's face, and the fee paid to a fortune-teller for fixing a lucky day for the wedding.

Some amusing evidence is anticipated.

SUICIDE OF CHIEF OFFICER.

CORONER'S INQUIRY AT HONGKONG.

An inquiry was conducted at the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday by Mr. J. R. Wood, into the circumstances surrounding the death of Boyd Johnstone, Chief Officer of the *Yat Shing*, who committed suicide in a room at the King Edward Hotel on April 7th.

Dr. MacFarlane, who made a *post mortem* examination of the deceased, said there was a cut across the right wrist, and four cuts on the left wrist, and there were eleven cuts, all skin deep, on the chest. Approximately there were 23 cuts on the neck. The internal organs were much diseased.

Mr. Dorey, Government Analyst, said he found 3.1 grains of opium in the organs of the deceased sent to him, which was serious, if no treatment was given, it also would cause or entoropyne.

Mr. J. W. Withall, manager of the Hotel, said the deceased occupied room 60, and that before his death he seemed to be in a normal condition. At 9.30 a.m. the next morning the No. 1 boy came to his room and said he could obtain no answer from the deceased's room. Witness went to the room and found the door locked. He knocked once or twice, obtained no answer, and then forced the door. Upon forcing the door he saw the deceased lying on his back on the floor. There were pools of blood all round. There were a number of wounds on the body, face and hands. On the floor near the body was the blade of a safety razor. Witness notified the police and also sent for Dr. Allan.

In reply to the Coroner witness said he did not notice if there was a bottle of whisky in the room. There was a bottle showing traces of chlorodyne, and also a bottle of chlorodyne.

Sergeant Shannon spoke to finding the deceased on the floor of the room. There were several safety-razor blades near the body.

Capt. R. J. Anderson, master of the *Yat Shing*, said he had known the deceased for five years, and he could find no reason why deceased should have taken his life. He was an excellent officer, and had been given leave to stay at the hotel while the ship was in Hongkong.

The Coroner—There was some trouble, was there not? Read this letter.

After reading the letter Capt. Anderson said there had been really no trouble. On the way up from Singapore he noticed, for the first time, that the deceased was under the influence of drink, due, he thought, to the fact that deceased had not heard from his wife for some time; he had had some trouble at home. Witness reported this on arrival, and the deceased apologised to him. The Superintendent sent for deceased to speak to him in connection with the matter. The deceased told witness he was sorry, that he had had some trouble at home, and asked to be allowed to go to the King Edward Hotel, saying he would be all right when the ship was due to sail. Witness gave him this permission. Subsequently witness went to the hotel to see the deceased and found him lying on his bed, fully dressed, and sound asleep. Witness loosened his collar and tie, and then left. Deceased was found dead the following morning, and witness was sent for.

In answer to the Coroner witness said that up to the incident soon after leaving Singapore, deceased had been an exceptionally sober man. He was a great reader of theosophist and theological books, but he would never discuss these subjects. Deceased also used to carry out experiments on the lines suggested in some of the books he read. Deceased had always been a healthy man.

Inspector Brown remarked that the deceased's cabin was full of such books as mentioned by Capt. Anderson.

The Coroner returned a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind.

CHUNG LING SOO AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

Chung Ling Soo completely mystified a large audience at the Theatre Royal last evening by his remarkable skill as a conjurer. He established a great reputation for himself at the London Hippodrome and has certainly maintained it in Hongkong. The programme described his entertainment as "the most beautiful, baffling and interesting series of illusions ever submitted to the public." This description, perhaps, does not err upon the side of modesty, but there is no doubt that his tricks, if such elaborate deceptions may be called by such a name, baffled everyone present and it was exceedingly interesting to watch them through the various processes until the wonderful climax was reached. And in the hands of this clever Chinese illusionist everything seemed so simple. In addition to shooting a ramrod with a rope attached clean through the body of a girl, and doing other little trifles, he managed, as a finale, to produce representatives of most of the nations from a small globe such as one is accustomed to see in most schoolrooms. First of all he extracted the flags of the nations and hung them round the stage and then, at his invitation, out stepped a British Tommy, a French poilu and others until one began to wonder how large the army was to be.

Chung Ling Soo unquestionably holds a place at the top of his profession and his entertainment is well worth studying even although it may be impossible satisfactorily to solve the riddle as to how his marvellous effects are obtained. He is assisted by a bright and clever company of vaudeville artists.

Mr. Chung Ling Soo will give two entertainments to-day (Saturday) one at 5 o'clock and the other in the evening as usual.

THE WAR.

BITTER FIGHTING ON BRITISH FRONT.

HEAVY ENEMY LOSSES.

IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE.

MEMORABLE GATHERING.

WAR AND FOOD.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

FIERCE FIGHTING ON BRITISH FRONT.

ENEMY SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES.

LONDON, May 4th.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—There has been fierce fighting all day long westward of Queant, to the northward of Fresnoy and eastward of the village of Vimy. The enemy, again employing large reserves of men and guns, delivered repeated counter-attacks practically along the whole battle-front. They suffered heavily from our artillery, machine-gun fire, and from the attack and during the assault. Our troops, despite obstinate resistance in the morning penetrated a sector of the Hindenburg line westward of Queant, maintaining themselves there all day long against constant and powerful counter-attacks. Further progress was made in the neighbourhood of Cserisy, astride the Arras-Cambrai road, and on the right bank of the Scarpe, where positions which changed hands frequently and were defended with great determination, are now in our possession.

THOUSANDS OF GERMAN DEAD.

TERRIBLE FIGHTING.

LONDON, May 4th.

Reuter's correspondent at headquarters, writing in the afternoon of the 3rd, says that fighting of terrible intensity has raged throughout the day at the main points of attack. The fighting in many places has been of a ding-dong order. There were most conspicuous gains on the flanks. Concealed machine-gun fire impeded progress in the centre, namely up the Scarpe Valley. Describing the attack he says that before daylight we pushed well forward northward. The Canadians took Fresnoy. Quipy was too strong for a frontal capture, the wood in front being infested with machine-guns posted in trees of varying heights, and uncut wire in gullies which was ungettable by a barrage.

Several new German divisions were identified. The enemy counter-attacking was most formidable opposite the first ground. They re-took ground at Gavrelle, but most of the counter-attacks were broken up by artillery. It is no exaggeration to say that the German dead number thousands.

Telegraphing later the correspondent says that gunning was most intensive around Rouex, which was most strongly defended. There was fierce fighting at Bullecourt, on the outer edge of which we are established. A heavy counter-attack has driven us back through Chelisy, which was captured earlier.

FRENCH AIRMEN ACTIVE.

SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL BOMBARDMENTS.

PARIS, May 4th.

A communiqué says:—There has been somewhat lively artillery on the Aisne front. The enemy violently bombarded Rheims. There was intermittent artillery in Champagne. Four enemy aeroplanes were brought down and fifteen others were seen to fall, damaged. One of our air squadrons bombarded the station and factories at Thionville. On the morning of the 1st our aeroplanes dropped 320 kilogrammes of projectiles

on an aviation camp at Sissonnes. On the following night the same camp received 2,000 kilogrammes of explosives. Great conflagration were observed at the sheds.

One of our air squadrons also bombarded Betheniville, Pontfaverger and Chatelet-sur-Beaune. A fierce fire and several explosions occurred.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE NEW THRUST.

STRONG POSITIONS CAPTURED.

LONDON, May 3rd.

A French official message states:—The artillery on both sides has been particularly active to the north-west of Rheims and in Champagne.

A well-conducted local operation gained us ground to the west of Mont Cornillet. The day was quiet everywhere else.

As a reprisal for the enemy bombing of Chalons and Epernay, five French machines last night bombed Treves, causing a violent conflagration.

HINDENBURG LINE DAMAGED.

LONDON, May 3rd.

Though the infantry is comparatively inactive on the Western front, this does not mean any suspension of the task of killing Germans. On the contrary, the British artillery is thundering ceaselessly day and night over the Donat plain, giving the enemy no rest.

The results of the recent offensive may be summed up by stating that a considerable part of the Hindenburg Line is in British possession and that another section is endangered. The British have captured the Hindenburg Line between Arras and Croisilles, they hold nine thousand yards of the old German positions to the north of the Scarpe, and by an attack on the Arras-Lens front they have turned the Hindenburg Line between Arras and Queant, thus creating a situation full of strategic possibilities.

Meanwhile, the breach effected on the German front in the Moruvillers region in Champagne seriously menaces the formidable positions at Berry and Nogent L'Abbesse, overlooking Rheims.

HEAVY FIGHTING ON THE BRITISH FRONT.

LONDON, May 3rd.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Heavy fighting is taking place on the whole front from the Hindenburg Line southwards of Sedan, River to the Acheville-Vimy road.

We are progressing and have already captured a number of strong positions.

THE GREAT THRUST.

LONDON, May 3rd.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, writing under today's date, states:—The new British thrust was made just before dawn. It is not permissible to discuss the scheme of attack. Suffice it to say that its objectives were several, important points, the capture of which would improve our line, and, incidentally, such operations as may suit the strategic idea by involving very heavy enemy losses. Anyhow, we naturally want the most complete mastery of all dominating positions from which our artillery can effectively devastate the fresh troops which the General Command continues to throw into the defence.

As usual, the infantry assault was preceded by a tornado of fire from weapons of all calibres between the 15-inch howitzer and Stokes trench mortar. The creeping barrage worked with chronometric precision as the order to "Go" snapped forth simultaneously down miles of trenches, and crouching figures soared and formed regular waves behind the crawling wall of palpitating crimson thunder. Then came the deadly rattle of machine-guns and the ear-splitting bursting bombs as the infantry reached the enemy parapets, followed by wild confusion as the men got to grips in the trenches. The results of the attack are not at present known.

I hear that the Germans counter-attacked near Favreille and Loos, and were repulsed.

FRENCH CAPTURES.

PARIS, May 3rd.

A communiqué states:—There have been artillery activity and patrol encounters throughout the region of Chemin des Dames.

We repulsed enemy raids on the wood to the west of Mont Cornillet, and on the heights east of Mont Haut, where we captured an isolated post which was still holding out, making prisoner of the garrison of nine officers and 310 men.

Detachments penetrated enemy trenches in Avocourt wood, on the left bank of the Meuse.

There were patrol encounters on the right bank of the Meuse in the direction of Dambloup and Bezonvaux.

There was intermittent cannonade on some point of the front, notably in the sector of St. Mahiel.

GERMAN NEWS.

LONDON, May 3rd.

A German official wireless message states:—A new English attack on a wide front commenced after recent artillery firing on both banks of the Scarpe. The enemy lost eight aeroplanes, and one balloon. There has been great artillery firing between Vaux Aillon and Craonne, along the Aisne-Marne canal, and on the heights to the north of Prosepe.

Naval Activities.

LONDON, May 3rd.

The Admiralty states that the Royal Naval Air Services first practised successfully, in August, 1915, seaplane torpedoing, when they sank several ships in the Dardanelles.

RECENT SINKINGS.

SOME INTERESTING ADMISSIONS.

LONDON, May 3rd.

In the House of Commons, Sir Leo Chichester admitted that a ship containing fifteen hundred tons of foodstuffs had been ordered to proceed to another port, and had been sunk en route thereto; and that a similar incident had happened six weeks previously, when a cargo of two thousand five hundred tons was lost. The Shipping Controller was giving his serious attention to the matter.

BRITISH TRANSPORT TORPEDOED.

MANY MEN DROWNED.

LONDON, May 3rd.

The Admiralty announces that the British transport *Arctican*, carrying troops, was torpedoed in the Eastern Mediterranean on April 15th. The vessel sank in five minutes and 270 are missing. It is presumed they are drowned.

SUBMARINISM.

LORD CURZON'S VIEWS.

LONDON, May 3rd.

Lord Curzon, addressing the Prime Minister at Caxton Hall, said he did not think that submarine warfare would diminish our shipping as to affect the ultimate issue of the war. The Cabinet's calculation had allowed for a wastage of shipping greater than had hitherto occurred.

Lord Curzon stated that the situation in Russia was still not without anxiety. Referring to the increasing strain on Germany, he said much might come to pass in the near future, though at present it was not to be foreseen.

SINKING OF THE "GENA."

TORPEDOED BY SEAPLANE.

LONDON, May 3rd.

The sinking of the British steamer *Gena* is the first occasion on which a ship has been torpedoed by a seaplane. There is much curiosity as to how the torpedo was fired. An unofficial account on Aldeburgh indicates that the seaplane was on the surface of the water.

It appears that the *Gena*, a vessel of 2,784 tons, was attacked by two seaplanes on each side. She fired at and damaged one, but the other, which was practically on the water, managed to sink her. The wrecked seaplane was towed to land and the pilot and observer made prisoner. One was wounded and taken to hospital. The *Gena's* crew of twenty-seven has been landed.

Russian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

RUSSIANS OCCUPY AN ISLAND.

LONDON, May 3rd.

A Russian official wireless message states:—We repulsed an attack on height ten miles south-west of Och, and defeated Turkish attempts to advance southwest of Gumushkane.

We occupied an island on the Dniestr River to the north of Kharkov.

Russian hydroplane squadrons destructively bombed Mahmudia, on the Danube.

General.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT.

ATHENS, May 4th.

M. Zaimis has formed a new Government.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

LONDON, May 3rd.

The statement issued by the Colonial Secretary regarding the work of the Imperial War Conference, continues:—The Conference welcomed the increase in the number of Trade Commissioners and recommends the Governments concerned to co-operate in assisting the service, especially for the promotion of inter-Imperial trade. It records the view that the 1907 Imperial Conference resolution should be modified to permit of the full representation of India at all future Imperial Conferences, and that the assent of the various Governments should be obtained thereto. It prays that the King will constitute by Royal Charter an Imperial War Graves Commission on the lines proposed by the Prince of Wales to the Prime Minister. The Conference records its deepest appreciation of the French Government's generosity in allowing in perpetuity the land where our men are buried, and urges that similar arrangements should be made in the peace terms by all the Allied, enemy and neutral Governments, in Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Africa and elsewhere.

The Conference is of the opinion that the readjustment of the constitutional relations of the component parts of the Empire is too important and intricate a subject to deal with during the war, and should be discussed by a special Imperial Conference, immediately after the war. The Conference records that such adjustment, while thoroughly preserving all the existing powers of self-government and the complete control of domestic affairs, should be based on the full recognition of the Dominions as autonomous nations of an Imperial Commonwealth, and that India, as an important portion thereof, should recognise her own right and that of the Dominions to an adequate voice in foreign policy. Foreign relations should provide an effective arrangement for common consultation on all important matters of common Imperial interest and for such concerted action founded on consultation as the several Governments might determine.

The Conference recognises the importance of securing uniformity of Empire policy and action with regard to naturalisation, and commends the proposals submitted by the Home Office to the Overseas Governments. It recommends that steps be taken without delay for the establishment in London of an Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, on which the whole Empire should be represented, whose duties should include advising as to how mineral resources may be developed and made available to meet the Empire's requirements. In view of the war experience, the Conference draws attention to the importance of developing an adequate capacity of production of naval and military material, munitions and supplies in all the important parts of the Empire, including the equatorial regions of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, where such facilities do not at present exist. It affirms the importance of close co-operation between India, the Dominions and the United Kingdom with this object.

The Conference urges that the present system of double income taxation within the Empire be taken in hand immediately after the war, and that the law should be amended regarding the present unsatisfactory position. In view of the war experience, the Conference records that the safety of the Empire and the necessary development of its component parts require prompt and attentive consideration, and concerted action with regard, firstly, to the production of adequate food supply and arrangements for transportation when and where required, under any conditions reasonably to be anticipated; secondly, the control of the natural resources within the Empire, especially those of an essential character for a necessary national purpose, whether in peace or war; and thirdly, the economical utilisation of such natural resources through manufacturing processes carried on within the Empire. It commends the various Governments concerned to consider the enactment of legislation in that direction.

The Conference, after expressing the view that the time has arrived when all possible encouragement should be given to the development of Imperial resources, especially in making the Empire independent of other countries in respect to food supplies, raw materials and essential industries favours, firstly, the principle that each part of the Empire, having due regard to the interests of the Allies, shall give specially favourable treatment and facilities to the produce manufactures of other parts of the Empire; and secondly, arrangements whereby intending emigrants from the United Kingdom may be induced to settle in countries under the British flag. The Conference, having examined the memorandum on the position of Indians in the self-governing Dominions, presented by the Indian representatives, accepts the principle of reciprocity of treatment, and recommends the memorandum to the favourable consideration of the Governments concerned. The Overseas members of the Conference conclude by appreciatively acknowledging the services of Mr. Walter Long in connection with the Conference, the courtesies of the Government, and the generous hospitality of the people of the United Kingdom.

AN ADDRESS TO THE KING.

LONDON, May 3rd.

The members of the Imperial War Conference have presented an Address to His Majesty the King at Windsor. After expressing their loyalty to the Throne and to the person of the King, the Address says it has been the members' privilege to share deliberations with a view to securing the victorious conclusion of the conflict. Further, they had considered steps to secure that the fruits of victory shall not be lost by unpreparedness after the war, thus preventing an unscrupulous enemy from repeating his outrages upon the liberties of civilisation. The Address concludes:—"We are returning home

inspired by the magnificent efforts of all classes of His Majesty's subjects throughout the world, confident that the trials and sacrifices borne in common will draw still closer the bonds of Imperial unity and co-operation.

The Address is signed by Mr. Walter Long and all the members of the Conference.

HIS MAJESTY'S REPLY.

LONDON, May 3rd.

According to the Press Bureau, His Majesty the King, replying to the Address from the members of the Imperial War Conference, says:—"Your deliberations will bring the war to a victorious conclusion but will ensure that we shall be prepared for the peace tasks of organisation of the resources of the Empire with a view to rendering it self-sustaining, and in strengthening its ties and knitting all parts of the Dominions." His Majesty expresses satisfaction at the fact that Indian representatives had participated in the deliberations, and expresses the opinion that the consequent personal intercourse will create the growth of a spirit of larger sympathy and understanding between India and the Dominions. "The gathering," he says, "has been a giant stride on the road of progress and Imperial development, and has assured that this will be steadily developed. I deeply regret the unavoidable absence of the Australian representatives, but that great Dominion stands second to none in its determination to assist in the present conflict. I trust that all the Dominions and India will be represented at the next Conference."

In the midst of the present terrible struggle, the magnificent contributions in men, munitions and money made by all parts of the Empire have been a source of the greatest pride to me. Vast armies have been raised in the Dominions and have taken or are taking the field side by side with those of the United Kingdom to fight a common foe in the cause of justice and these free institutions which are the very keystone of the Empire. It is fitting that I should here specially refer to the munificent gifts of money made towards the expenses of the war by the Government, the Princes and the peoples of India. The Queen and myself recall the happiest recollections of our visit to the Dominions, and look forward to the day when some of our children will in their turn have the opportunity of acquiring a similar priceless experience by such visits. I rejoice at the prospect of better means of communication which will more effectively link up the various parts of the Empire, and I trust in days to come to see an ever-increasing exchange of visits and personal intercourse between the Mother Country and the Dominions, for does not the sympathy of common brotherhood help to form the surest foundations upon which the State may rest? The value of the Empire lies not in its greatness and strength alone, but in the several contributions that each of its diverse parts, with varying circumstances and conditions, makes to the general stock of knowledge and progress. I thank you for coming here personally to present the Address. May God bless and protect you all, and grant you a safe return home on the conclusion of your labours."

SOUTH AMERICA AND THE WAR.

GERMAN EX-MINISTER TO BRAZIL DETAINED.

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 3rd.

The Foreign Minister, Senhor Muller, has resigned. The Government has ordered the detention of the ex-German Minister, Herr Pauli, owing to information having been received that the Brazilian Minister in Germany has been detained.

GERMANY TO SALUTE ARGENTINE FLAG.

BUENOS AIRES, May 3rd.

Germany has apologised for the sinking of the *Protegido*, and has offered compensation. She has also promised that a German squadron shall salute the Argentine flag at the first opportunity.

ALLIED CARGOES.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR INSURANCE.

WASHINGTON, May 3rd.

A Government Bill has been introduced in Congress under which the United States will reinsure the cargoes of Allied ships, while the Allies will reinsure the cargoes of American ships. An appropriation of 25,000,000 sterling will be asked for, including the insurance of the lives of crews of American merchantmen.

ENEMY DESERTIONS.

LONDON, May 3rd.

Speaking at Caxton Hall, Lord Curzon drew attention to the fact that there was no military front on which the enemy was not at present retreating. We were daily learning of increasing enemy desertions, surrenders and the breaking down of discipline. Speaking of compulsory rationing, Lord Curzon said that this was necessary, but that there was not the slightest cause for panic or real alarm.

GERMANY FROM WITHIN.

AMSTERDAM, May 3rd.

The Reichstag has reopened. The President, referring to the entry of the United States into the war, said President Wilson's profession of friendship for the German people will not impress the latter, who will fight for Kaiserdom with their hearts' blood.

SOCIALISTS ARRESTED.

ZURICH, May 3rd.

It is reported that many Socialists have been arrested in Germany during the last few days. The Socialists' organ, *Volkrecht*, publishes extracts from glibious German manifestos urging a general strike.

WAR CONFERENCE DELEGATES.

RECEIVED BY KING AND QUEEN.

LONDON, May 3rd.

Reuter's special correspondent at the Windsor Castle reception of the War Conference delegates by their Majesties, says that it was a fitting conclusion to the most momentous Conference in the history of the Empire, following upon the members adopting the unprecedented course of going to Windsor and there presenting an address of loyalty and devotion to the King. In glorious Spring weather a procession of motor-cars left the Savoy Hotel, conveying Mr. Long, Mr. Chamberlain, Sir R. L. Borden, etc. Arriving at the Castle, the delegates were conducted to the white drawing room, where, a few minutes later, the King, attired in morning dress, arrived.

The King was accompanied by the Queen, Princess Mary and Princess Albert, Henry and George. The Conference members, all of whom were previously known to their Majesties, were presented by the Rt. Hon. Walter Long. In a clear, resonant voice, Sir R. L. Borden read the address, and the King was obviously much touched when he himself read the reply. The whole party then proceeded to lunch, which consisted of strict war rations and no intoxicants. On the King's right sat Mr. Walter Long and on his left Sir R. L. Borden. The Queen sat opposite, with Mr. Austen Chamberlain on her right and Mr. Massey on her left.

After lunch the party adjourned to the drawing room, where the Royal Family unceremoniously and animatedly conversed with their guests. After a stay of two hours the delegates left the Castle.

Reuter's Correspondent accompanying the Delegates, is authorised to state that the King deeply appreciated, and was much touched by the expression of loyalty and devotion, and by the spirit which prompted the presentation of the address. Also that the Delegates were equally impressed by the cordiality of their reception, and welcomed the King's reference to future Royal visits to the Dominions.

The members of the Conference were unanimous in the opinion that it was a fitting finale to an unforgettable mission to London in this crisis in the world's history.

On the return journey, General Smuts, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ward and Mr. Massey and others, visited Queen Mary's Hospital at Southampton and witnessed the work of fitting and training for their future life, maimed soldiers, including many from the Dominions. They were much impressed by the way in which armless and legless men, by means of artificial limbs, performed most of the functions of the able-bodied. They saw the endless digging and the legless cycling. The maimed soldiers, according to three hearty cheers to the members of the Conference, who suitably acknowledged them.

FOOD SHORTAGE IN EUROPE.

LONDON, May 3rd.

As further evidence of the food shortage in Europe, Norway is preparing to introduce rationing, while Sweden has prohibited the export of various foodstuffs, including pork, shell-fish, fruits, vegetables and other provisions.

CHILE AND GERMANY.

LONDON, May 3rd.

It is reported from Berlin that the Chilean Minister has announced a rupture of relations between Chili and Germany, and has requested his passports.

COTTON AND YARN MARKET.

Messrs. Polshwalla & Kothwall, cotton and yarn brokers, of Hongkong, in their report dated May 4th, state:—

The despondent conditions that permeated our last report, issued on 20th ult., have become further accentuated during the fortnight under review and we have to record a series of stagnant markets.

The stumbling-block has again been the acute difficulty experienced by importers in covering exchange against sales. Most of the banks refuse to sell Rupees to any extent, and the few that operate do so very sparingly and irregularly. In the circumstances, it has been impossible for holders to think seriously of business; and, pending a satisfactory improvement in the financial situation in Bombay, transactions are bound to be within a narrow groove.

The business during the period barely totals 1,800 bales, made up of small parcels; rates, however, have been steady to firm, and in many instances show an advance of 2 to 4s.

Stocks are estimated at 21,000 bales, including 13,000 bales bargained for. Arrivals:—The mail steamer *Yagoua*, and extra steamer *Indra* from Bombay have brought in altogether 3,000 bales for Hongkong and 10,000 bales for Shanghai. Shipments from Hongkong to Shanghai and coast ports amount to about 1,000 bales.

SHANGHAI, though labouring under the same disabilities, has a better account to render. Prices are comparatively better and the fortnightly sales are advised as 7,000 bales.

JAPANESE YARNS.—There are no available stocks on the market, and what little parcels arrive are being snapped up by the dealers at advancing rates, which show an appreciation of 5s/10 over those of the last fortnight. Quotations are as follows:—Nagasaki No. 20s at 114s; 3 Horses No. 18s at 117s; 3 Horses No. 20s at 118s; Yellow Rose No. 20s at 118s; extra steamer *Indra* from Bombay have brought in altogether 3,000 bales for Hongkong and 10,000 bales for Shanghai. Shipments from Hongkong to Shanghai and coast ports amount to about 1,000 bales.

RAW COTTON.—No sales are recorded either in Bengal or Calcutta. Quotations: Bengal at 23s 7d to 24s; and Chinese at 23s to 23s 6d per picul.

TRADE PROSPECTS.
GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS.

Speaking at the fifty-seventh annual meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, Sir A. Stanley, President of the Board of Trade, said his department would have to deal further with the elimination of enemy control in firms and businesses. There had been passed the Registration of Business Names Act, but that Act had not been in force for very long before they found that the wily foreigner was discovering ways of avoiding its provisions. Some means must be taken by the Board to prevent them from doing that. (Cheers.) The records showed that over 450 undertakings, representing over \$12,500,000, had been dealt with under the Trading with the Enemy Act, and steps had been taken completely to wind-up such undertakings if it could be shown in the national interest that those undertakings were to the benefit of the enemy. When the war was ended, we should need a great deal of foreign money in Great Britain, and it would not be wise to contemplate excluding entirely foreign money becoming interested in our business undertakings. It was his intention to afford the greatest possible assistance to businesses in this country.

HIGHER WAGES COME TO STAY.

Business men had got to face the fact that higher wages had come to stay. So far as his information went, very little fault was found by employers who would have to pay these higher wages. So long as an honest day's work was given, it seemed to him that it was an advantage to the country that these higher wages should be continued after the war. (Hear, hear.) Undoubtedly there was a suspicion on the part of some working people that the war was being used in some quarters for the purposes of profiteering. In many cases that was not true. The situation would be improved if workmen and employers were brought into closer association. A scheme had been completed, which the Government would support and encourage, to establish a British Trade Corporation to facilitate and establish large credit banks for the purpose of developing British trade. The corporation would receive a charter. There was ample room for such an institution in this country. It would not unduly interfere with the operations of joint stock banks, or any British and Colonial banks, but would do work which could not very well be done by them. This corporation would have on its board representatives of industry and commerce, and have associated with it men expert in various industries, and possessed of a very wide knowledge of the world and its affairs. It was proposed to attach to it an Information Bureau and Intelligence Department. At the conclusion of the war, there must be considerable extension of the spirit of industry in this country, and he was sure this new institution would be found to be of inestimable value in helping to finance these extensions of the future.

Sir Albert was on to say that Great Britain must get hold of the key industries must improve the generation of electricity, and reform its transport facilities. The Board had already arranged with the Treasury for a Department of Commercial Intelligence, and there would be an increase of Trade Commissioners of from four to sixteen, the whole of our Empire being covered by our representatives.

INCREASE OF STATE OFFICIALS.

Sir A. Firth, in his presidential address, remarked that there were two matters which were causing anxiety to traders. One was the duplication of the work of Government departments and the enormous increase of officials and officials. (Cheers.) When we go on an ever-increasing growth of staffs, going on day by day for new departments of State, we could not be without misgivings as to how it was all going to end. When peace came it would need strong action and co-operation amongst all to limit the interference and reduce all these officials to their proper activities. The other point was the financial position of the country after the war. We should be left with enormous charges to pay for interest, pensions, the Services, and for administration. Taxation would no doubt be upon a scale very few of us had realised, and the hardship to our industries would be serious. Business men must organise in time so as to make their influence felt in matters affecting trade. It was upon our industries that the future welfare of the country would primarily depend. (Cheers.)

If they were to have a true national and Imperial policy the principal of the minimum wage in all trades must be agreed to. He looked for a year or two, possibly more, of good trade after the war. Later, probably, a reaction would come, and the seriousness of that reaction and its effect upon us would depend upon the use we were making of the intervening period. Sooner or later the present inflated values, not only of materials, but also of labour, would need readjusting.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S SCHEMES.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain said he hoped the Germans would be made to pay in their own persons and their own territory for the injury they were inflicting to-day on helpless civilians and on private property. (Hear, hear.) But we must not disguise from ourselves the fact that it was a long, long way from Bapaume to Berlin, and even from Bapaume to the Rhine.

On the proposition of Mr. W. F. Beardsley (Sheffield), a resolution was carried that immediate efforts should be made by the various chambers of commerce to assist in bringing about co-operation between labour and capital, with a view to assuring industrial peace after the war, and towards that end conferences between employers and employees should be arranged by the chambers for the purpose of discussing the best means of increasing the productive capacity of the country.

DARDANELLES REPORT.

MR. ASQUITH'S DEFENCE OF LORD KITCHENER.

MR. CHURCHILL AND THE NAVY.

It was not so much the House of Commons as the High Court of Parliament which listened to the discussion on the report of the Dardanelles Commission. For in its principal aspects it was more like a trial than a debate. Mr. Asquith made a considered statement dealing with a few important points, but even he passed swiftly from the rôle of accused to that of accuser. Mr. Churchill's speech was of a far more rhetorical kind, and as he went on, he carried the war boldly into the enemy's camp. Indeed, the general impression left on the minds of the listeners may well have been that the two statesmen arraigned by the Commissioners had rather turned the tables upon their critics. It was at least perfectly clear that the general sense of the House condemned the publication of the Report without the evidence, and drew the conclusion that, as the evidence could not be published, this interim Report ought also to have been held back. That view was strongly expressed not only by Mr. Asquith but by Sir George Reid and Sir Mark Sykes.

Moreover, the fairness of the Report was challenged, and the scandalous use that has been made of it in certain quarters was reprobated in the warmest terms. The "abominable attacks" on Lord Kitchener, for which this Report has served as an excuse, drew many noble tributes to his memory, and elicited from Mr. Asquith something in the nature of a vivid character sketch, to which the House listened with the utmost sympathy. Lord Kitchener, he said, had been represented as "a solitary, taciturn antecrat," took no counsel with anyone, and insisted on having everything his own way. That he absolutely denied. He was, indeed, a masterful man and a formidable personality, but the fact was that at the outbreak of war all the General Staff went to France, and no soldiers of experience were left in the country. The Government, therefore, in all military matters were bound to defer to Lord Kitchener's unrivalled authority, and no man ever had a heavier burden to carry. Mr. Asquith also revealed the interesting fact that, at the outbreak of war, Lord Kitchener was the only man he ever thought of asking to become Secretary of State for War.

THE FATAL DELAY.

It was good to hear the cheers with which Lord Kitchener's name was greeted, and Mr. Asquith could not have served his own reputation better than by appearing, as he did, as the champion of the great Field-Marshal's honour. He told the House that he had expressly asked Sir F. E. Smith to attend the Commission and watch the dead man's interests, and that Sir Frederick had been assured by Lord Cromer that there was no need for him to do so. Nor, of course, did the Commissioners attack Lord Kitchener as he has been attacked elsewhere. Their condemnation, however, on his delay of three weeks after February 16th in sending the 29th Division did not fail in severity, and Mr. Asquith's reply was that the delay had been due not to any vacillation or hesitation, but to two main considerations—first, that the Russian position was so bad at the time that Lord Kitchener feared the Germans might withdraw divisions from the Eastern and send them to the Western front, and second, that both the British and French Headquarters were putting the strongest pressure on him to despatch the 29th Division to France. Those were "grave and weighty reasons," said Mr. Asquith, and he added, "It is so easy to be wise after the event." He held, therefore, that the Commissioners had not given sufficient weight to these considerations when they passed their censure.

Mr. Asquith dealt at some length with the criticisms of the Report on his own neglect to summon a War Council between March 18th and May 14th. His answer to this was that he had been in daily and hourly consultation with Lord Kitchener and Mr. Churchill, and that the operations were in the hands of the naval men on the spot. But there had been no fewer than thirteen meetings of the Cabinet in that period, and at several the Dardanelles operations had been discussed at length. As for the rôle of the experts, the War Council, Mr. Asquith emphatically declared that he had never known them show the least reluctance to give their opinion, whether invited or uninvited, and though Lord Fisher was known to be adverse to the Dardanelles operations, it was not on the ground that they were impracticable, but that his preference was for a different operation in a totally different sphere. Lord Fisher, said Mr. Asquith, was in a minority of one, but he explicitly agreed to undertake the naval operations.

LORD FISHER'S OBJECTIONS.

The part that Lord Fisher played throughout the early months of 1915 was, however, much more fully dealt with by Mr. Churchill. According to him, everybody on the War Council knew of Lord Fisher's objections, but knew also that they were not objections based on the impracticability of "forcing" the Dardanelles—a very different thing from "rushing" the Dardanelles, which no one ever contemplated. Lord Fisher, insisted Mr. Churchill, never objected to carrying out the operations until the Admiralty on the spot changed his mind and advised that the naval attack should not be proceeded with. Mr. Churchill did not conceal his own desire to press the attack with the Navy alone, but he was overruled, and then the fatal delays took place. Towards the close of his speech, in a very significant passage he said that the future would disclose how many rounds of shell were left in the Turkish forts and how many floating mines they had when the naval attack was abandoned—plainly hinting that the Turkish ammunition was almost exhausted, and that if a few more old battleships, recalled from the scrap heap to perish gloriously, had been sacrificed, all would have been well.

Mr. Churchill took great pains to prove step by step that the detailed plans for a purely naval attack had received the considered approval of all naval authorities, including the Admiralty on the spot. (Continued on last of next column.)

THE BELIEF IN CHARMS.

AN EXHIBITION IN LONDON.

Superstitions die hard, but the German submarine campaign is prolonging the life of at least one of them. In Nelson's time there was a limited trade in charms, and popularly believed to be sure charms against death at sea by drowning, and in those days a single specimen would fetch as much as £20. Since Nelson's time there has been less demand for these objects, and five years ago they sold at 2s. apiece. Now, thanks to the activities of the German underwater craft, they are being sold at the London Docks for 22 10s.

This is one of many interesting facts brought out by an exhibition of charms illustrating a faith in the supernatural that apparently still obtains in London. The collection, which has been got together by Mr. Edward Lovett, a member of the council of the Folk Lore Society, is to be seen at the Southwark Central Library, Walworth Road. It has no relation to what may be called religious superstitions, but it shows how widespread is the belief, especially in East and South London, that the fortune of individuals can be affected by some inanimate object deemed to be lucky or potent against disease.

Love charms, of course, are prominent. One that is shown is "dragon's blood," gum, red in colour, and it is claimed that if this is burnt at midnight, preferably on a Friday, it will not fail to win a lover. Mr. Lovett states that this practice still survives, and many young girls in London carry out these mystic rites religiously. Another charm of the same sort is the root of a little yellow wild flower (*potentilla tormentilla*). It also has to be burnt, but its efficacy lies in the fact that it renews a dead or waning affection rather than influences an existing one.

Medical charms form a large part of the collection. There are necklaces made of the stems of the nightshade which, if put around the neck of an infant, will help it to cut its teeth. A necklace of acorns is a specific against other infant ills. A knucklebone, carried in the pocket, will ward off rheumatism, the theory being that as one dead bone does not suffer from the complaint the disease will go into it. Another cure for rheumatism is a potato. A specimen shown was carried by a rheumatic subject for many years. A third charm against the same complaint is a small bottle containing mercury, hermetically sealed and covered with leather. Mr. Lovett states that it is sold in London by one of the largest chemists in the world.

Those who suffer from nightmare may welcome this prescription. A pair of horseshoes covered in blue and red cloth, or a string of stones, naturally perforated, should be hung up at the head of the bed. A necklet of the blue beads will protect a child against bronchitis, while red beads or coral will avert sore throats. A small bag containing a tooth should be placed round the neck of an infant as an antidote against teething convulsions. Since the beginning of the war another charm against disease has been introduced by Belgian refugees—the wearing of cat's skin for rheumatism and chest troubles.

One of the most curious of the exhibits is a sheep's heart, pierced with pins and nails to break the spell of a black witch. It was prepared by an old woman who practised witchcraft in London as late as 1908. She learned the secret of the charm from her grandmother in South Devon, where it was popular with farmers. The black witches were supposed to bring about the death of sheep and cows by casting a spell over them, or by surreptitiously introducing the poisonous leaves of the yew tree to their food. By taking the heart of a sheep which had fallen victim to these machinations, piercing it with pins and nails, and hanging it up in the chimney, the spell was supposed to be broken.

Sir Henry Jackson, Admiral Oliver, and the French Navy Staff, and that Lord Fisher himself had agreed to carry it out. He made out, therefore, a very strong case for his contention that this naval attempt to force the Dardanelles was not a rash enterprise foisted on an unwilling Admiralty but was the plan of the naval experts themselves. He also claimed—though by no means successfully—that it did not prejudice the prospects of the subsequent joint expedition, and he argued that the whole enterprise was fatally prejudiced by the powerful agencies and influences ranged against it, which made it "one long, agonising, wearying struggle to 'very gun and every man' by way of reinforcement." Mr. Churchill spoke with the greatest animation, and welcomed the report as enabling him to defend himself against his detractors, though he attacked it as a patchwork of "clippings and snippings."

RESULTS OF THE EXPEDITION.

No feature of the day was more striking than the absolute confidence with which Mr. Asquith, Mr. Churchill, and Mr. Lloyd George were convincing than either in this respect—Sir Mark Sykes, claimed that enormous advantages to the Allied cause had accrued from this expedition, which is usually referred to in terms of failure and catastrophe. Mr. Asquith said it was a complete travesty so to describe it. It saved the position of Russia in the Caucasus. It delayed for months the entry of Bulgaria into the war on the side of the Central Powers. It kept 500,000 Turks immobilised, and destroyed the nucleus of the Turkish Army by destroying its very flower. If such benefits were gained by failure, said Mr. Churchill, what should we not have achieved by success? There lies, indeed, the real tragedy of the Dardanelles Expedition, for tragedy it is felt to be by the instinct of the British people. The feeling, moreover, of many of those who listened to the chief presentations of their cases by Mr. Asquith and Mr. Churchill must have been that the demonstration which Russia requested us to make in the Mediterranean early in 1915 should have been made anywhere than at the Dardanelles, until we had adequate means to force a way through, without breaking off for want of troops or shells. (Daily Telegraph.)

FLYING MEN.

THE CHIVALRY OF THE AIR.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT TO "THE TIMES"]

Flying has become as much a matter of routine in war as marching on land or steaming on the sea, and men are ordered to fly, at fixed hours and for stated periods, as though flying were a natural act and not the organized miracle that it really is.

Out in France the last chivalries, the last beauties of battle have taken refuge in the air. From the labours, butcheries, miseries, horrors and ash-pit desolation of the earth, the fighting romance of war has taken wings and climbed sunwards. There alone combat is individual, visual, decisive. There alone has the combatant to rely solely on himself. There alone is the battle decided not through veils of distance, between impersonal and unknown hosts but, wing to wing and face to face. There alone are the rare courtesies of warfare still possible; it was a British squadron that suggested, and a British aviator who executed, the dropping of a funeral wreath over the German lines as tribute to the air-warrior Immelmann. And there alone can individual skill and courage have their swift reward. For one flash, between a dip and a climb of his swallow flight, the fighting aviator may catch the glint of his opponent's eye and, if the momentary burst of fire be truly directed, see him crumple up in his seat and the nose of his machine dip and begin its fatal spinning dive, while the victor soars up again to safety and solitude.

And what a solitude is his! From the moment in the aerodrome when the mechanic has given his last leave, and the last curt verbal exchange, "Contact, Sir—Contact," has been given, and the engine sets up its mighty droning song, the aviator is alone, submerged in that soaring music, deaf and dumb. For perhaps a minute he sits there testing his engine, fingering his levers, assuring himself that all is well; and then, as the drone sinks to a hum, he makes his last communication—the characteristic quick outward wave of the hands and arms. The checks are pulled away, the hum rises to a drone, breaks into a roar, and he is off, bumping over the uneven earth until the speed gives his wings their life, the rough ground is shed away from beneath his feet, and he rises into the sudden peace of the air.

The "peace of the air" may seem like a contradiction, in terms in war time; but it is the supreme sensation of fair-weather flying, apart from flying and fighting. Once you have got your height, whether it be a thousand or ten thousand feet, you seem to be absolutely at rest—at rest in sunshine and a strong gale. The dim carpet or map beneath you hardly moves; and although the trembling fingers of the little clocks and dials before you witness to the fluidity of your element, and the tenderness of your hold on it, the only things that do not seem to move are the wings and stays of your machine, which surround you, a rigid cage from which you look forth upon the slow-turning earth or the rushing clouds. It is not until the engine has been shut off, and you begin to plane in mighty circles towards the earth again, that you get, in that delicious rush down the hill of the air, any sensation of speed; and not until, a moment before landing, you skim over the earth at 80 miles an hour, that you realize with what pace you have been rushing through the airy vacancy.

OVER THE LINES.

But these are the sensations of mere joy-riding. Ten or twenty minutes may take the fighting pilot to his station in the air over the enemy's lines. How puny the absurdity of the greatest war of all time can appear is only known to the aviator, as he sits in the breeze and the sun, high above it all; the danger to him is not down there, although to ascend into the remote sphere he has to pass through the zone of anti-aircraft fire; his own particular enemy is the German fighting machine, which may come down to harry or destroy the observer, and which he must himself attack the moment it makes its appearance. Between these two he watchfully patrols, and all this time, although a battle may be raging beneath him, he hears nothing but the strong, rasping hum of his engine. He flies and fights alone.

The things that happen almost daily to the men who fight in the air can be compared with nothing in our own experience. The curt reports of the Flying Corps dismiss in two or three lines combats in the air which are more wonderful than any combats in which men have engaged since the world began. In the course of them the highest courage, the coolest nerve, the nicest judgment, the most rapid decision, and a whole set of subconscious controls of engine, aereolons, rudder, and machine-gun have all to be exercised together and co-ordinated so that the man, his gun, and his machine are thereby forged into one weapon. What breed of supermen, one might well ask, what system of eugenics, of nutrition, of physical and mental training can provide the human prodigy able to perform feats like these?

The answer is simply this.—You take the ordinary English youth from school, or from a cadet corps, or from an office, or from a regiment, and give him three or four months' training, and throw him up into the air in France, and he does the rest. I have lived with more than one fighting squadron in France, and have seen the flights set forth in the morning, and watched for them as they, come doubtfully home, trying to find their way through the curtain of low clouds. I have spent "dud" days of rain and mist with the pilots in the intimacy of the crowded mess, and have learned. I think, something of their quality. I know nothing comparable with it or them. They are a race apart. They are almost children in years; the average age of one squadron I know is 23; but there is a maturity entirely their own, born of experiences unknown to us, in their brave faces and laughing eyes. Their flying life is reckoned not in years but in months. (Continued on last of next column.)

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crisis it must
be BovrilBRITISH TO THE
BACKBONE

THE WISHING OAP.

If you had the prospect of a settled income of five thousand pounds a year, you would, doubtless, be prepared to swear that you could be extremely happy. It is tantalising, isn't it, that more of us cannot at least try the experiment for a year?

But as you and I and all the world know, money alone cannot bring complete happiness. Doubtless we should be in agreement if we said that at least it would be helpful to that end. We are told by the sages, and experience proves it, that health is the biggest and best asset in life. All the more reason, then, why it should be jealously guarded. We should all, therefore, grasp health with both hands, as it is above and beyond riches. For the every-day ailments which affect us all at one time or another there is nothing that will aid you better than Mother Seigel's Syrup. This great stomach and liver tonic can and does help you to retain and regain health. Nature as a general rule is not unkind to us providing we take note of the warnings she gives. The daily headache, if not arrested, will surely lead to worse troubles; perhaps biliousness may follow, which is a sure indication that all is not right with your digestive organs. The proper thing, therefore, is to act at once and do as thousands have done—take a course of Mother Seigel's Syrup and thereafter keep it in your home as your family remedy.

"I think you will be interested to learn what Mother Seigel's Syrup has done for me. I don't think that anyone could possibly have suffered more keenly from the pains of indigestion than I have during a long period of my life. Right from a young woman I had been a victim to this complaint until twelve years ago, when through Mother Seigel's Syrup I was completely banished it. As I am now nearing 70 years of age you will see that I was in its grip for nearly 40 years. Three bottles of your remedy made me a new woman, when I had got into a very low state through not only being unable to take food, but also through fear of the consequences of pains that would follow if I did. To-day my health and appetite are both excellent." Mary A. Cripps, Well Cottage, Longridge, Stroud, Glouce., July 18th, 1916.

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